



Fall 2015

# Rain Rhythms: Fall 2015

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

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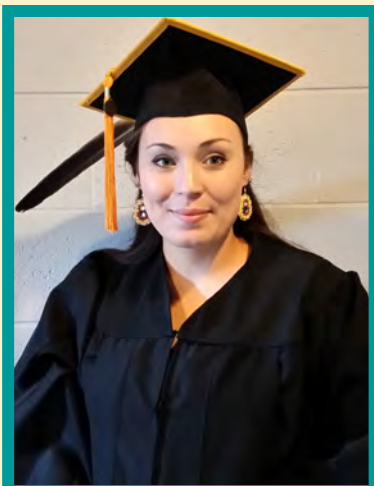
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# RAIN Rhythms

Recruitment & Retention of American Indians Into Nursing | Fall 2015

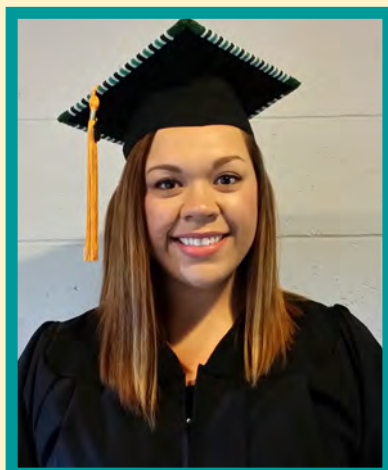
## Celebrating our Fall Graduates Traditional BSN



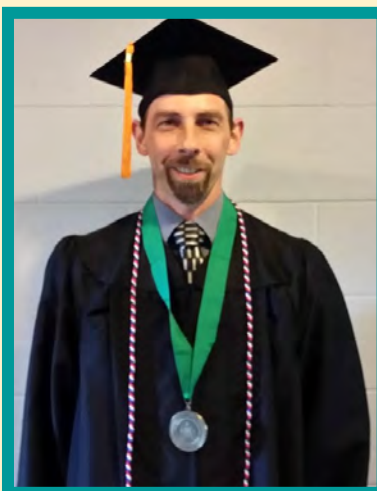
Destiny Grant- Blue  
Turtle Mountain  
Chippewa



Carmita St. Pierre  
Spirit Lake Nation

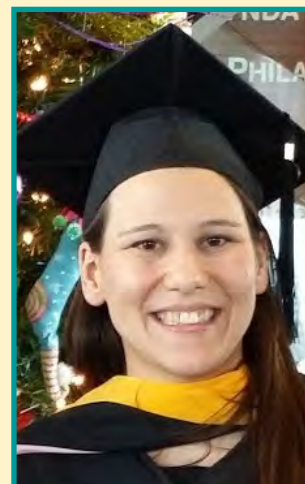


Jezarae LaRocque  
Turtle Mountain  
Chippewa



Jason Jones  
Cherokee Nation

## MSN



Valerie McCarney  
Fond du Lac  
Band of Chippewa

### Table of Contents

Graduates	1
Orientation	2
White Coat Ceremony	3
Pinning Ceremony	4
Honor Ceremony/Festivities	5
"Heart of the Action" article	7
RAIN Projects	8
President Kelley's Retirement	10
Rez-cruitment & RAIN Alum Visits	11
RAIN Activities	12



## ORIENTATION

Fall 2015 Orientation was held on August 2015 and included pre-nursing as well as new and returning nursing students.



Pre-nursing Students Orientation



Nursing Students Orientation



## White Coat Ceremony



(l-r): Maycie Morin, Sydney St. Germaine, Katey Monette, and Quinn Parisien

The white coat in the medical profession signifies that the person wearing the coat is a medical professional. On Thursday, November 19, the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines cloaked the Nursing class of 2017 with their traditional white coats at the Gold-AACN White Coat Ceremony, thus officially welcoming them into the medical profession.

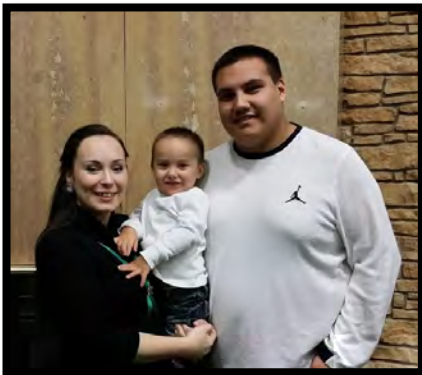
This is the first year that the University of North Dakota has conducted a white coat ceremony to usher in the newest class of nurses. The White Coat Ceremony was sponsored by a partnership between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. UND was one of hundreds of schools which were selected to host a White Coat Ceremony for new nursing students this fall.

(UND, 2016, <http://nursing.und.edu/news/2015/11/white-coat-ceremony.cfm>)

## Pinning Ceremony



(l-r): Jason Jones, Carmita St. Pierre, Destiny Grant-Blue, and Jezarae LaRoque



Destiny Grant-Blue  
with her family



Carmita St. Pierre with her family



Jezarae LaRoque  
and her family



Jason Jones was honored when he was elected by his class to present a speech at Pinning. December 2015.



## Honor Ceremony

The Honor Ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of the RAIN students who are



(l-r): Valerie McCarney, Destiny Grant-Blue, Carmite St. Pierre,, Jason Jones, and Jezarae LaRocque

graduating and invites staff, family, and friends to applaud and commend the graduates for their achievements. The students are presented a Pendleton honor robe, which they select. This celebration is accompanied by a traditional feast consisting of buffalo roast, baked potatoes, corn, vegetables, wild rice soup, and fry bread along with wojapi. The Buffalo River Drum Group

provides the drumming and singing for the festivities, which include an Honor song and friendship dance.



Valerie McCarney with her family



Destiny Grant-Blue with her family



Jason Jones with his family



Carmita St. Pierre with her family



Jezarae LaRocque with her family



## HONOR CEREMONY Festivities



## Heart of the Action

UND Nursing student Shelby Poitra keeps an open mind while discovering passion for research in her field.  
Written by Carrie Sandstrom, UND News

University of North Dakota nursing student Shelby Poitra accepted a position as an intern at Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation (MHIF) at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. Poitra was the only nursing student among the pre-med students and brought another point of view to a research-intense internship during this three month period at MHIF.



Poitra's research involved analyzing the records of 50 patients who used an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) machine to evaluate its impact on patients who suffered from septic shock. The ECMO machine provides oxygen to blood, thereby allowing the lungs and heart to heal. The results of her study showed that those patients who used the ECMO machine had a lower mortality rate, and this machine may lengthen the life of those terminally ill patients.

Poitra submitted her abstract, and her poster was accepted by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization for their conference in Atlanta, GA in September, 2015. This organization is a nonprofit international consortium, which focuses on therapies for support of persons who are experiencing failing organ systems.

During her college career as a nursing student, Poitra has researched many different topics, for example, one study on Alzheimer's disease and another on studying addiction in zebra fish. This internship helped prepare Poitra for her fall semester classes that will focus on cardiology and for her clinical hours at Altru Hospital's cardiology unit.

Initially in her college career, Poitra was enrolled in a pre-med track. Just before she finished her pre-med class requirements, she reflected that she wasn't happy. She spoke with a nursing student, who told her that UND's nursing program is very respected. Poitra indicated that she has always been interested in the medical field. After she graduates, Poitra indicated that she is considering pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree.

To read the entire article, click on the following link.

Sundstrom, C. (2015). Heart of the action. *UND Today*. Retrieved from

RAIN Rhythms 7 

<http://und.edu/news/2015/10/shelby-poitra-research.cfm>



## RAIN Projects

RAIN closed a chapter of the Next Steps project on September 29, 2015 with the completion of a 5-year grant working in collaboration with Spirit Lake Nation Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC). CCCC applied for and was awarded an Health



(l-r): Faye Foote, Deb Wilson, Elizabeth Yellowbird, Iris Walking Eagle., Barb Anderson, and Tracey Baker. Closing the Next Steps Chapter.

Professions Opportunity (HPOG) grant in 2010, titled "Next Steps: An Empowerment Model for Native People Entering the Health Professions." Our RAIN program was a sub-awardee of the grant. The Next Steps project was designed for American Indian people who aspired to work in the healthcare field and who would receive educational support services, such as full tuition, mentoring services, child care assistance, and other services. RAIN had the privilege of providing the mentoring and tracking of American Indian students in ND, who were pursuing healthcare careers from September 2010 to 2015.

## A New Chapter: MHA Education Pipeline

Following the successful completion of Next Steps, RAIN presented a proposal to the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation to provide mentoring services to MHA members who are pursuing higher education and vocational training across ND. The MHA Education Pipeline program began on October 1, 2015; three of the four RAIN mentors were hired as MHA mentors to continue tribal collaborations, utilizing our RAIN Mentor Model. MHA mentors provide academic and personal support to MHA members.



MHA Education Pipeline staff (l-r): Faye Foote, Lori Larson, Tracey Baker, Barb Anderson, Deb Wilson, and Elizabeth Yellowbird



MHA Tribal Chambers



## MHA Education Pipeline Program



**Our people are our future; education is the tool to sustain our future**

The MHA Education Pipeline Program is a new MHA funded initiative to provide Mentors to members of the MHA Nation who are seeking degrees at higher education institutions and vocational training sites across North Dakota. The RAIN Program's Mentor Model has 25 years of proven success in student support and retention. Mentors have offices in New Town, Bismarck, Grand Forks and United Tribes Technical College to provide academic and non-academic support services to MHA tribal members in higher education and vocational education.

Support Services	Staff
<b>Retention</b>  Academic Advising Educational Care Plans Financial Aid Advising Community Resources Sense of Community Personal & Professional Development Sessions Referrals  <b>Recruitment</b>  No financial support available, referral will be made to appropriate offices/services  Please refer family or friends to a Mentor	<p><b>Vacant, Ft Berthold Mentor</b>            Office: Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, 220 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., New Town, ND            Serving:            Mandaree ~ New Town ~ Parshall ~ Twin Buttes ~ White Shield ~ Williston</p> <p><b>Tracey Baker, Bismarck Mentor</b>            Office: Horizon Bldg, 1815 Schafer St., Rm 131, Bismarck, ND            701-317-6714 <a href="mailto:tracey.l.baker.2@und.edu">tracey.l.baker.2@und.edu</a>            Serving:            Belcourt ~ Bismarck ~ Bottineau ~ Dickinson ~ Ft Yates</p> <p><b>Evelyn "Faye" Foote, United Tribes Mentor</b>            Office: 3315 University Drive, Building 69 (Jack Barden Center), Rm 201            701-317-6530 <a href="mailto:evelyn.foote@und.edu">evelyn.foote@und.edu</a>            Serving:            United Tribes ~ Jamestown ~ Mandan ~ Valley City</p> <p><b>Lori Larson, Grand Forks Mentor</b>            Office: UND American Indian Center, Rm 109, 315 Princeton St            701-213-2130 <a href="mailto:lori.larson@und.edu">lori.larson@und.edu</a>            Serving:            Devils Lake ~ Fargo ~ Ft Totten ~ Grand Forks ~ Mayville ~ Wahpeton</p> <p><b>Deb Wilson, MHA Education Pipeline Director</b>            701-741-0421 <a href="mailto:dwilson@mhanation.com">dwilson@mhanation.com</a>  <b>Barb Anderson, MHA Education Pipeline Coordinator</b>            701-317-2293 <a href="mailto:barb.anderson@und.edu">barb.anderson@und.edu</a></p>

3/2/17



## Honoring President and Mrs. Kelley at Retirement Reception



On Wednesday night on December 2, 2015 at the retirement reception for President Kelley in the Goreki Alumni Center, Director Deb Wilson (left) and Coordinator Barb Anderson (right) of the RAIN program presented the Kelleys with a Pendleton, titled "Dream Catcher" as a token of honor and respect for their work at the University. (Jesse Trelstad/ Grand Forks Herald)

**Save the date!**

**RAIN**  
25th Family Reunion

**RESCHEDULED:**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016**  
Reception: Thurs., April 21, 2016  
(held during UND's Time Out week)

*More information and formal invitation to follow!*



## Rez-cruitment and RAIN Alum Visits

Each year, RAIN Program Director Deb Wilson and Program Coordinator Barb Anderson and other RAIN staff traverse across Indian Country in seven states, visiting with youth and families at reservations and communities. During these recruiting drives the team also visits RAIN alumni now serving their home communities.



MHA Career Fair at New Town, ND.

(l-r): Kaye Bell, Elizabeth Yellowbird, and Deb Wilson. October 2015



(l-r): Barb Anderson and Deb Wilson.

RAIN representatives at Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community College and Career Fair, Prior Lake, MN. November 2015



(l-r): Marilyn Yellowbird and Chantel Decoteau-Vasquez at the Elbowoods Memorial Health Center in New Town, ND. November 2015



(l-r): Melinda Balderas RN MS and Chantel Decoteau-Vasquez RN at the Elbowoods Memorial Health Center in New Town, ND. November 2015

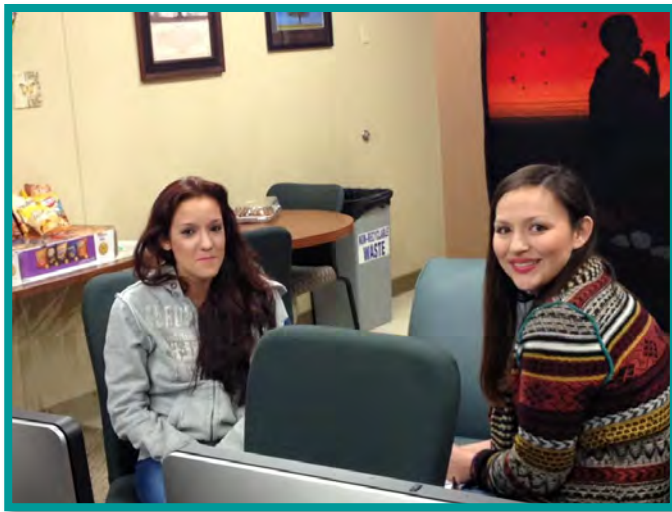
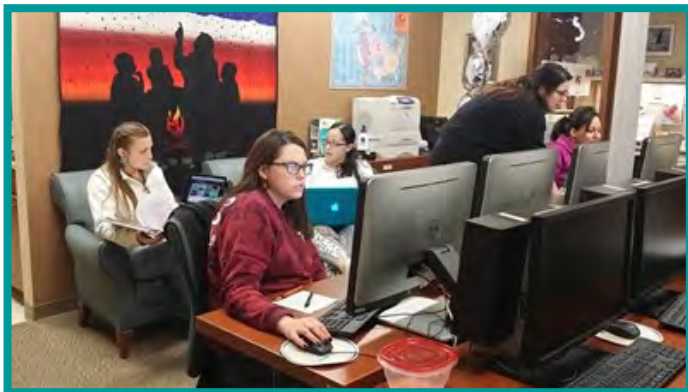


(l-r): Deb Wilson, Kristina Smith, and Barb Anderson. Visiting Kristina at Quentin N Burdick IHS Hospital to present her with her Pendleton. She received her MS in Advanced Public Health Nursing in Summer 2015. Because of bad winter weather in December, she was not able to attend the Honor Ceremony in December of 2015



## RAIN ACTIVITIES Fall 2015

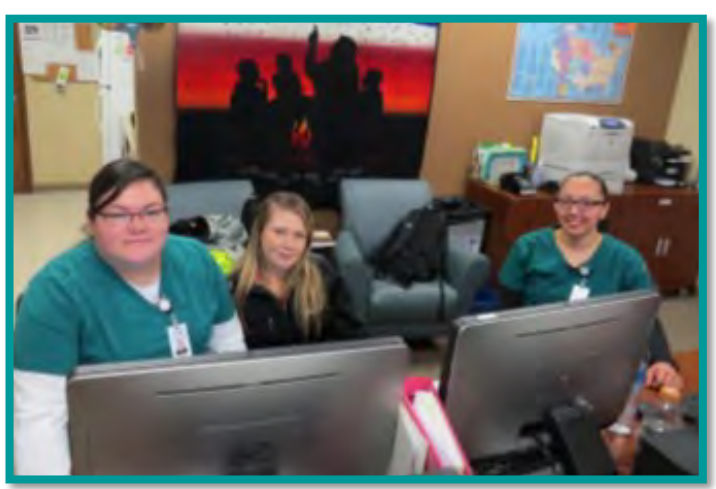
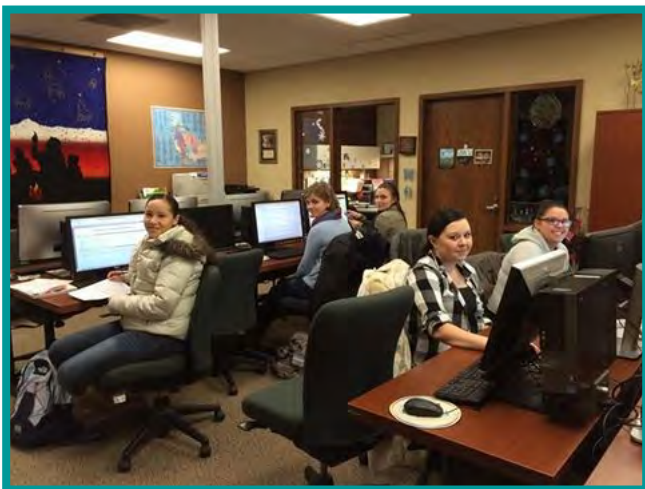
Our RAIN students, tutors, and nurse mentors hard at work in our area.





## RAIN ACTIVITIES

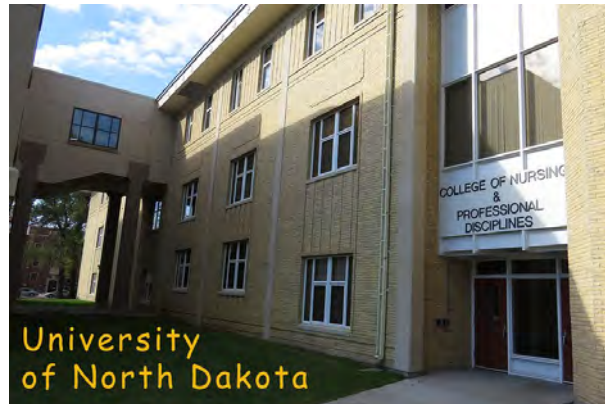
More photos of our RAIN students, tutors, and nurse mentors hard at work in our area.







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The RAIN Program offices are located in Suite 314 of the  
College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines,  
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

**Quentin N. Burdick Indians Into Nursing Program**  
Recruitment/Retention of American Indians Into Nursing (RAIN)  
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**RAIN University of North Dakota**

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